

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, October 31, 2016

## **Bouquet Canyon Road closure extended**

The condition of Bouquet Canyon Creek is prompting an extended closure of a portion of Bouquet Canyon Road within Angeles National Forest. The road, which was closed Thursday, October 27, due to predicted rain, will remain closed to all traffic at least through winter storm season, which officially ends on April 15.

This section of Bouquet Canyon Road is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and is operated under permit by LA County Public Works. There are no homes or businesses within the closure area.

Several years of sediment and vegetation build-up in Bouquet Canyon Creek have compromised the creek's ability to properly convey water within the canyon. Even minor creek flows lead to inundation of some sections of the adjacent roadway, creating potentially unsafe driving conditions for motorists. These conditions, and the arrival of storm season, necessitated the decision to close the road.

The closure extends from the gate approximately six miles south of Spunky Canyon Road, (near Mile Marker 12.55, just south of Big Oaks Lodge), to the gate near the southern boundary of Angeles National Forest (near Mile Marker 15.97, two miles north of Vasquez Canyon Road).

Plans for the restoration of Bouquet Canyon Creek are being developed through a rigorous environmental review process. In August, LA County Public Works released an environmental document referred to as an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Stakeholder comments received on the IS/MND are being discussed with regulatory agencies to further develop creek restoration plans.

Motorists are advised to seek alternate routes.

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